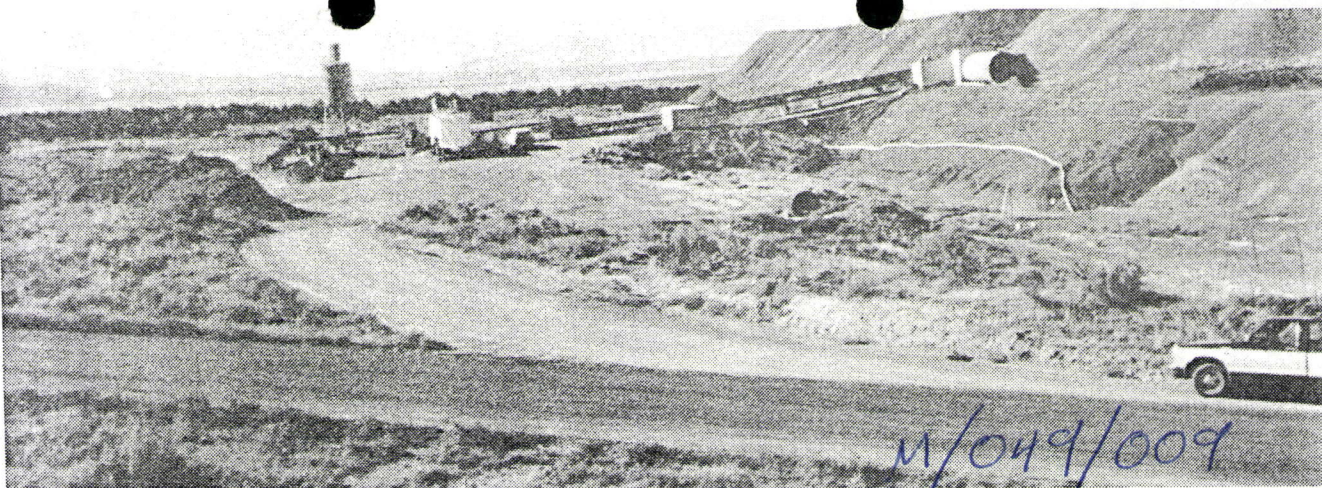


Eureka



Today, much of the precious metal coming out of the Eureka area comes from heap leaching.

## Eureka, home of Tintic District, marking its centennial

By Bill Hawes  
PAY DIRT Field  
Representative

This year marks 100 years of existence for the Utah community of Eureka, with observance activities planned for each month of 1992.

Highlight of the Centennial Celebration was Silver Days over the August 15th-16th weekend that featured a parade, dances and barbeques.

Despite the town's meager current population of about 500, several times that number were on hand for the festivities as former residents from all over the West returned for a weekend of visiting with old friends and recalling their times together in the old mining community.

Eureka is best known for its Tintic Mining District, Utah's second most productive, with a cumulative output of around \$500 million. (The West Mountain District, which includes Bingham Canyon, is the state's most productive.)

The rich mines at Eureka caused the town to grow rapidly, reaching a peak population of about 15,000. Additional people lived in nearby Mammoth, Silver City, Knightville and Dividend. During the height of its boom,

### Puzzle . . .

around this town is where I grew up. And nobody cares for them and has a respect for them as much as I do," said Albouy.

Even if Albouy gains approval from the Forest Service - approval his attorney says he doesn't need -- he still must obtain a county permit for the quarry. That may prove the most difficult task of all, but Albouy isn't quitting yet.

"The fact remains that I love mining. There's nothing I'd rather do. This is my home."

Eureka became the location of the second store of J.C. Penney, who started his national chain in the southwestern Wyoming coal mining town of Kemmerer.

The district's production has been chiefly silver, lead, zinc, gold, copper and halloysite clay. Production started declining during the Great Depression of the 1930s, revived during World War II, then started downhill again.

The Tintic Standard, once the world's largest silver producer, ceased production soon after World War II when the mine encountered a large quantity of hot water on the 1400 level.



The Trixie mine, operated by Sunshine Mining Company, produces a silver-gold-silica flux. It's still in production after yielding 750,000 tons of ore. (Photos by Bill Hawes.)

In 1956, the Chief Consolidated mine turned off its pumps, although some production by leasors continued on the upper levels for a while.

Some production did continue to come from the district for a few years, chiefly halloysite clay, which was used as a catalyst in petroleum refining.

In the late 1950s, Kennecott started exploration in the eastern part of the district that led to development of the high-grade **Burgin mine**. This hot and wet mine operated until 1978 when Kennecott, despite good reserves of high-grade silver-lead-zinc ore, shut it down due to continued low metal prices.

But these old major mining districts die hard, with hope springing eternal as metal prices fluctuate. This is the situation at Eureka as production in recent years has stopped and started and exploration has poked around here and there over the years.

Operations continued at the nearby Trixie mine, a silver-gold-silica flux producer. This mine, now operated by **Sunshine Mining Company**, is still in operation, having produced about 750,000 tons of ore.

**North Lily Mining Company** has installed a cyanide heap leaching plant, recovering gold and silver from area mine-dump material hauled to its leach pad.

Centurion has announced encouraging results from its gold exploration in the southern part of the district.

It is planned to report on these ongoing operations in more detail in future issues.

